

# REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

### HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

WITH

TABULAR RETURNS OF MORTALITY,

DURING THE YEAR 1911,

BY

*T. CUNNINGHAM PENFOLD,*

M.B., C.M., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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*THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT,*

1911.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

### HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

FOR THE YEAR 1911.

GENTLEMEN.

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board, I have pleasure in placing before you the Annual Report for 1911.

AREA.—The Area of the whole District is 196,881·775 Acres. It is sub-divided into the following sub-districts:

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Area.</i>	<i>Population.</i>
Allendale sub-district ...	51,833 Acres ...	4917.
Bywell „ ...	46,638 „ ...	7003.
Chollerton „ ...	50,531 „ ...	5387.
Hexham „ ...	47,807 „ ...	4614.

DEATHS.—There have been during the past year 270 deaths, as compared with 267 during the year 1910. This gives a corrected death-rate of 12·36 per thousand, and includes the deaths of 26 residents transferred from other districts. These death returns include the names of 144 males and 126 females. No less than 41 of these have been deaths of children under 12 months. The corrected death-rate for England and Wales during the same period was 14·6 per thousand, so that the death-rate for your district is considerably below that of the country as a whole.

The infant mortality rate is also low, being 93·4 per thousand, whilst the corresponding figure for England and Wales for the same period was 130. Although low, the infant mortality rate is more than double that for the previous year, when it was only 41. This increase is probably due to the exceptionally hot and dry summer of 1911.

The chief causes of death amongst adults have been—Heart Disease, 48; Cancer, 25; Phthisis, 27; Senile Decay, 22; and Pneumonia, 14.

From the various Infectious Diseases, 10 deaths have been registered, 5 of which have been due to Whooping Cough, 2 to Enteric Fever, 2 to Measles, and 1 to Diphtheria. The zymotic death-rate thus stands at 4·5 per thousand, which is 21 per thousand more than that for the previous year.

**BIRTHS.** Of these, 439 have been registered. 217 of those were those of males, and 222 were those of females. No less than 11 male births, and 14 female births, were illegitimate, 25 in all. Of these 25 illegitimate children, 4 died before they reached the age of 12 months. The crude and corrected birth-rates are the same, and are equal to 20.02 per thousand, which is considerably below the birth-rate for England and Wales during the same period, the latter being 24.4 per thousand.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES.** During 1911, 73 cases of Infectious Disease have been notified. These consisted of 31 of Diphtheria, 20 of Erysipelas, 13 of Scarlet Fever, 4 of Enteric Fever, and 5 of Phthisis.

It will be observed that the number of deaths from Phthisis exceeded the number of notifications of that disease. This is due to the fact that some practitioners overlooked the fact of its being a notifiable disease for some time after it was declared notifiable. It is now, however, generally known to be notifiable, and there is no cause for complaint as to the way in which information is received.

## *NUISANCES, &c.*

The following notices have been issued to Owners and Occupiers of premises, during the year, by the Sanitary Inspector:

	Inform- al notices.	Carried out.	Statu- tory notices.	Carried out.
To Provide proper drainage to premises	18	12	17	1
„ Open out and relay choked drains ...	4	4		
„ Trap inlets to drains and sewers ...	4	4	5	5
„ Trap waste water pipes ...	1	1		
„ Cement, pave, and repair defective yard surfaces ...	5	4		
„ Relay floors, and drain byres, stables, and piggeries ...	1	1		
„ Repair roofs of houses ...	10	4		
„ Provide ventilation to drains ...	7	6		
„ Cement walls and floors of ashpits and privies ...	11	6		
„ Provide w.c., E.C., or privy accom- modation ...	15	3	2	2
„ Protect water supply from pollution	1	1		
„ Provide rain-water spouting ...	8	5	8	8
„ Repair dilapidated privies and ashpits	13	8	6	6
„ Connect drains to sewers ...	4	2	8	

	Inform- al notices.	Carried out.	Statu- tory notices.	Carried out.
To Remove offensive accumulation of re- fuse from premises ... ..	4	4		
„ Fix inlets to drains on the outside of premises ... ..	2	2		
„ Cleanse manure and ashpits ...	11	9	7	7
„ Provide cesspits and manure pits ...	5	3	1	
„ Repair defective water fittings ...	7	7		
„ Provide proper doors and coverings to ashpits ... ..	27	10		
„ Lime-wash walls, &c., of premises ...	4	4		
„ Cleanse open sewers ... ..	2	2		
„ Deposit plans of buildings in course of erection ... ..	8	8		
„ Remove ashpits and cesspits further from buildings ... ..	2	1		
„ Not to deposit refuse into water- courses .. ..	4	4		
„ Cleanse urinals and cesspits ...	4	4		
„ Cease discharging contents of out- offices into river and water-courses	5	4	33	30
„ Cease keeping fowls to be a nuisance	2	2		
„ Excavate ground from walls of houses to remedy dampness ... ..	3	3		
„ Repair defective rainwater spouting	27	21		
„ Remove drain under floors of house	1	1		
„ Provide ashpits to premises ...	12	7	16	15
„ Cleanse private sewage works ...	3	3		
„ Open out drains for testing purposes	4	4		
„ Build cesspit at least 50' from house	1	1		
„ Deposit plans in duplicate ... ..	13	13		
„ Disconnect rain-water pipe from soil- pipe ... ..	1	1		
„ Fix notice boards to prevent damage and trespass to sewage works, and depositing refuse ... ..	4	4		
„ Extend outlets of drains from premises	3	3		
„ Cease discharging untreated sewage into rivers and watercourses ...	91	4		
„ Close cottages .. ..	3		3	
„ Provide better water supply to houses	6			
Schools, dwelling houses, bedding, furniture, &c. dis- infected and fumigated ... ..	...	...		29
Drains tested by smoke test, or otherwise ..	...	...		41
Drains new, found defective ..	...	...		8

During the year 1911, 38 new houses have been occupied.

*Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1911,  
for the Rural District of Hexham.*

*Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.*

**1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

*Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.*

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories ... .. (Including Factory Laundries)	31	3	.....
Workshops ... .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	52	9	.....
Workplaces ... ..	.....	.....	.....
Total ... ..	83	12	.....

**2.—Defects Found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.**

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	17	17	...	...
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	21	21	...	...
Total	38	38	...	...

**3.—Home Work.**

None of the industries enumerated are carried on in our district, except the making and cleaning of wearing apparel.

**4.—Registered Workshops.**

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at end of the year, 79.

(Laundries, Dressmaking, Milliners, Blacksmiths, Joiners and Cartwrights, Boot and Shoemakers, Bakehouses, etc.)

**5.— Other Matters.**

Nil.

**TABLE I.**  
*Vital Statistics of whole District during 1911 and previous Years.*  
*Name of District—Hexham Rural.*

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncor- rected Num- ber.	Nett.		Num- ber.	Rate.	of Non- residents registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Num- ber.	Rate.
			Num- ber.	Rate.								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1906 ...	27,947	688		24.6	365	13	...	11	64	100.7	376	13.4
1907 ...	28,012	662		23.6	364	12.9	1	15	59	89.1	378	13.4
1908 ...	28,077	705		25	383	13.6	1	6	85	120.5	388	13.8
1909 ...	28,142	734		26.1	383	13.6	3	7	77	104.9	387	13.3
1910 ...	20,368	459		22.5	258	12.6	2	11	28	61	267	13.1
1911 ...	21,921	439	439	20.02	250	11.4	5	25	41	93.4	270	12.3

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 196,881.775 Acres.

Total population at all ages, 21,890  
 Number of inhabited houses, 4972  
 Average number of persons per house, 4.4

} At Census of 1911.

**TABLE II.**  
*Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1911.*  
*Name of District—Hexham Rural.*

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases Notified in each Locality.			
	At all Ages.	At Ages. Years							Ullendale Sub-district.	Bywell Sub-district.	Chollerton Sub-district.	Hexham Sub-district.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.				
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ... ..	31	...	5	17	5	3	1	...	2	12	1	10
Erysipelas ... ..	20	1	1	1	2	8	6	1	3	17	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	13	...	2	8	2	1	...	...	2	10	...	1
Enteric Fever ... ..	4	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	..	1	1	2
Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908	3	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	2
Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1911	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Others ... ..												
Totals ... ..	73	1	8	27	12	16	8	1	13	42	3	15

Isolation Hospital. Name and Situation: Edgewell Isolation Hospital, Prudhoe. Total available beds, 14.  
 Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 2.  
 Smallpox Hospital, Lightwater, Hexhamshire. Total available beds, 12.



## TABLE III.

*Causes of, and Ages at Death during 1911.**Name of District—Hexham Rural.*

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Net Deaths at the sub-joined ages of Residents, whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
				All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	
All causes	{ Certified	...	...	261	39	8	5	5	8	35	42	71	5
	{ Uncertified	...	...	9	2	1	1	..	1	..	..	4	..
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	5	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Apoplexy	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	10	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	24	...	...	...	...	3	15	4	2	3
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	7	1	...	3	2	1	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	25	...	...	...	...	3	8	14	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	15	4	1	...	...	...	...	10	...	...
Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	...	8	4	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Pneumonia (all other forms)	...	...	...	14	...	...	1	...	3	3	4	3	1
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	...	...	8	5	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	1	6	3	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	...	...	...	20	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	...	...	...	7	...	1	...	1	3	2	...	...	1
Suicides	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	48	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Senile Decay	...	...	...	22	...	...	...	...	...	1	21	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	26	3	1	...	1	1	4	9	7	...
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...
				270	41	9	6	5	9	35	42	75	5

**TABLE IV.**  
**HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT.**  
**INFANT MORTALITY, 1911.**

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages  
under 1 Year of Age.

Cause of Death.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes.	Certified ...	9	5	1	1	16	8	4	8	3	39
	Uncertified ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	1	2
<hr/>											
Whooping-cough ...		...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
<hr/>											
{ Diarrhoea ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
{ Enteritis ...		...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	3
<hr/>											
Other Tuberculous Diseases		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	1
<hr/>											
{ Congenital Malformations..		...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	3
{ Premature birth ...		5	2	...	...	7	...	...	...	1	8
{ Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus		4	2	1	1	8	1	...	...	...	9
<hr/>											
{ Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> )		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
{ Convulsions		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	..	2
<hr/>											
{ Bronchitis		...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	4
{ Pneumonia (all forms)		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	4
{ Other causes		...	...	...	...	...	1	..	1	1	3
<hr/>											
		9	5	1	1	16	8	4	9	4	41

Births in the year—Legitimate, 414; Illegitimate, 25.

Nett Deaths in the year of Legitimate infants, 37; Illegitimate Infants, 4.

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 1911.
 

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*The following Plans were submitted and approved at the following Meetings of the Sewage. Building, and Water Works Committee.*

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*January 31st.*

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at Anick House, Anick, near Hexham, for Capt. Cuthbert, Beaufont Castle.

Plans of additions and alterations to a house, at Batt House, Stocksfield, for Mr. Steele, Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield.

Plans of a w.c. at the Black Bull, Corbridge, for Mr. Lumley, The Brewery, Ovington.

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*February 28th.*

Plans of a bath-room, at Hoordley Acre, Haydon Bridge, for Miss Coats, North Side, Haydon Bridge.

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at Lipwood House, Haydon Bridge, for Mr. Coats.

Plans of a bath and box-rooms, at the Schoolmaster's House, North Wylam, for Col. Blackett.

Plans of ten houses, at the back of Meadowfield Terrace, Stocksfield, for Mr. J. R. Hindmarsh, Neville Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of a villa, at Glen View, Stocksfield, for W. Duncan, Esq., Stocksfield.

Plans of a villa, at Crab Tree Road, Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for Miss Hutchins.

Plans of a cottage, at The Glen, near Slaley, for S. Carter, Esq., per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

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*March 28th.*

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at Haydon Lodge, Haydon Bridge, for W. M. Turner, Esq., Tynemouth.

Plans of additions and alterations to a cottage, at Thornley Gate, Allendale, for Mrs. Lee, Ashleigh, near Allendale Town.

Plans of a bath-room and w.c., at Wingrove, near Corbridge, for Miss Pears, per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

Plans of a bath-room, at Prior House, Corbridge, for J. C. Straker, Esq., The Leazes, near Hexham.

Plans of converting a byre into a cottage, at Howdon Dene, near Corbridge, for J. H. Straker, Esq.

Plans of a stable and coach-house, at Dalehead, Stocksfield, for A. S. Wood, Esq.

Plans of a villa, at Slaley Hall, near Slaley, Hexham, for C. S. Hunting, Esq., Eachwick Hall, Dalton, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

#### *April 25th.*

Plans of a urinal, at the Wheat Sheaf Inn, Corbridge, for Ridley, Cutter & Firth, Ltd., Brewers, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of additions and alterations to a cottage, at Bog Hall, Slaley, Hexham, for C. S. Hunting, Esq., Eachwick Hall, Dalton, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of two cottages, at Fell Cottage, near Slaley, Hexham, for C. S. Hunting, Esq., Eachwick Hall, Dalton, Newcastle.

Plans of four houses, on sites near the New Town Hall, Haydon Bridge, for Dr. Murray, North Side, Haydon Bridge.

#### *May 11th.*

Plans of a villa, at Broomfield, near Horsley, Wylam, for Mr. Dyke, merchant, Horsley, Wylam-on-Tyne.

Plans of bath-rooms and w.c.'s, at 18 and 32, Falcon Terrace, N. Wylam, for H. Wallace & Sons, builders, N. Wylam-on-Tyne.

#### *May 23rd.*

Plans of new streets, at the back of Meadowfield Terrace, Stocksfield, for Mr. J. R. Hindmarch, Neville Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at Tynholm, Haydon Bridge, for Mrs. Anderson.

Plans of a sale shop, at Main Road, Humshaugh, for Evans' Trustees, Humshaugh.

Plans of a wash-house, at the West End, Humshaugh, for Evans' Trustees.

#### *June 20th.*

Plans of a stable, loose-box, harness-room, and coach house, at South Wood, near Corbridge, for Mr. Ker.

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at Target House, near Hexham, for C. W. C. Henderson, Esq., The Riding.

Plans of two semi villas, at the Building Estate, Riding Mill, for A. L. Bird, Esq., per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

Plans of two semi-villas, at Hardhaugh, Warden, for the Fourstones Paper Mill Co., per Mr. Bell, architect, Sunderland.

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*July 18th.*

Plans for converting two privies into w.c.'s, at Broomley Schools, Stocksfield, for the Northumberland Education Committee, Moot Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of alterations and additions to a butcher's premises, at the Main Road, Humshaugh, for the Evans' Trustees, Humshaugh.

Plans of thirteen houses, at the Brigwood Building Estate, Haydon Bridge, for the Co. op. Society, Ltd., Haydon Bridge.

Plans of converting a stable and coach-house into a cottage, at Back Lane, Ratcliffe Road, Haydon Bridge, for Dr. Murray, North Side, Haydon Bridge.

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*August 15th.*

Plans of new drainage and w.c.'s, at the Bridge End, Corbridge, for the Duke of Northumberland, The Castle, Alnwick.

Plans of new outoffices, at Bagraw School, near Hexham, for the Northumberland Education Committee, Moot Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of harness-room, stable, loose-box, and calf-house, at the Colpitts Farm, near Slaley, for C. S. Hunting, Esq., Eachwick Hall, Dalton, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of two tool-houses, at semi-villas, Wylam Wood Estate, S. Wylam, for Mr. Strachan, builder, Riding Mill.

Plans of a farm house, at Colwell Well House, near Barrasford, for C. D. G. Riddell, Esq., Swinburne Castle, near Barrasford, per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

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*September 12th.*

Plans of a house, at Brettanby Terrace, Stocksfield, for Mr. Hindmarsh, Neville Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of a villa, at Corchester Avenue, Corbridge, for Mr. C. M. Cooke, per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

Plans of additions and alterations to the east and west cottages, two, at Sandhoe, near Hexham, for Capt. Cuthbert, Beaufront Castle, Hexham.

*October 10th.*

Plans of six houses, at Stephenson Terrace, N. Wylam, for Col. Blackett.

Plans of a villa, stable, and coach-house, at Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for Mr. Jackson, Stocksfield.

Plans of a school, at Whittonstall, Stocksfield, for the Northumberland Education Committee, Moothall, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of a byre, coal house, and outoffices, at Sandy Braes, Healey, near Riding Mill, for W. W. Warde-Aldam, Esq.

*November 7th.*

Plans of a house, at east of the Bridge End Dye Works, Hexham, for Mr. A. Taylor, Foundry Cottages, Hexham.

Plans of an entrance lodge, at the Bog Hall Estate, near Slaley, Hexham, for C. S. Hunting, Esq., Rackwick Hall, Dalton, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of a warehouse, at The Orchard, Stocksfield, for Mr. Farbridge, merchant, Stocksfield.

Plans of four semi-villas, at the Building Estate, Riding Mill, for A. L. Bird, Esq., per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

Plans of the conversion of an r.c. into a w.c., at the Oddfellows' Hall, Watling Street, Corbridge, for the Oddfellows' Society, Corbridge.

Plans of a cement footpath, at the Schools, N. Wylam, for the Northumberland Education Committee, Moothall, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

*December 5th.*

Plans of two semi-villas, at the Forstersteads Road, Allendale, for Mr. Wilson, The Dene, Allendale.

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at Wheel Birks, near Stocksfield, for Mr. Richardson.

Plans of additions to a house, at Thornton Tower Road, Newbrough, Fourstones, for Mr. Reed.

Plans of the conversion of an r.c. into a w.c., at Watling Street, Corbridge, for the Oddfellows' Society, Corbridge.

Plans of twelve houses, at the West Shaft, Settlingstones Mines, Fourstones, for the owners of the Settlingstones Mines.

*Infectious Diseases.*—Of infectious diseases, 73 notifications came to hand, as compared with 74 cases for the previous year.

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It prevailed  
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HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION)  
ACT, 1889.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS & CEREBRO-  
SPINAL FEVER.

**WE**, the Rural District Council for the Rural District of Hexham, in the County of Northumberland, HEREBY GIVE PUBLIC NOTICE that we have, in pursuance of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, resolved and ordered that such Act shall apply within our said District to the following Infectious Diseases, viz.: — ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS and CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER; and that such Order shall come into operation on the First day of May, 1912, and remain in force until the said Order shall be revoked or varied by us.

Dated this 11th day of April, 1912.

J. H. NICHOLSON,  
Clerk to the Council.

*October 10th.*

Plans of six houses at Stockton, for Col. Blackett.

Plans of a  
Estate, Stocksfield

Plans of a  
Cumberland Estate

Plans of a  
Healey, near R

Plans of a  
Hexham, for M

Plans of a  
Slaley, Hexham  
Newcastle-on-T

Plans of a  
Farbridge, mer

Plans of a  
Mill, for A. L. C  
Mill.

Plans of the  
fellows' Hall, of  
Society, Corbridge

Plans of a  
the Northumb  
on-Tyne.

Plans of two  
dale, for Mr. W

Plans of a  
near Stocksfield

Plans of a  
Newbrough, For

Plans of the  
Street, Corbridge

Plans of two  
Mines, Fourston



*Infectious Diseases.*—Of infectious diseases, 73 notifications came to hand, as compared with 74 cases for the previous year.

*Diphtheria.* The majority of these were cases of Diphtheria. 31 notifications of this disease have been received. It prevailed chiefly in the Bywell sub-district, in which there were 12 cases, whilst the Hexham sub-district contributed 10. In the Choller-ton and Allendale sub-districts, there were 1 and 8 cases respectively. The majority of these were very slight, and from this cause only 1 death occurred.

I am of opinion that the great improvements which have been made, and are being made in school buildings, and also in the sewerage of the various villages of your district, must, in time to come, bear fruit in a greatly lessened mortality from this disease. The facilities provided for the examination of the throat secretion of convalescents by the Northumberland County Council, has also had a most important share in bringing about the same result. Last, but by no means least, must be put the immense improvement in the treatment of Diphtheria which has come about in recent years. So much is this the case, that provided that the patients are seen and thoroughly treated early enough, deaths ought to be very exceptional. This is well brought out in the annual report of the medical officer of the Local Government Board for the year 1910—11,\* which shows that the death rate for England and Wales per 100,000 of the population, has in ten years been reduced by 50 per cent. It is characteristic of this disease that it invades a town slowly, and usually persists for several years before ceasing to be epidemic.

Futhermore, this disease is characterised by cycles in reference to its prevalence. It was epidemic to a high degree during the years 1857 to 1865, being worst in 1859, and again in the decade 1892—1903, with a maximum death rate in 1893.

The antitoxin treatment possesses immense value when applied to this disease, and sanitary authorities throughout the country are now empowered to provide for the poorer inhabitants of the district a temporary supply of antitoxin, and medical assistance in connection with it. I am glad to think that the Hexham Rurl District Council have utilised these powers for nearly six years, and have no doubt whatever as to the immense value of these powers from the public health point of view.

If this rapid improvement is to continue, and if it is to be fully shared by individual districts like our own, it can only be by each Sanitary Authority doing its own share within its own area. To this end, a properly organised system of scavenging,

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\* Report of the Medical Officer, 1910—1911. London: Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office, by Darling & Son, Ltd., 34-40 Bacon Street, E. 1911.

and the abolition of old, delapidated privy middens, and the substitution of proper earth closets, ash closets, or better still, water closets, in their place, is an urgent necessity.

*Scarlet Fever.* Only 13 cases of Scarlet Fever have occurred during the past year, and this disease has not been assigned as the cause of any death. All over England and Wales, the death rate from this cause has shown a steady decline, and it is now over 50 per cent. lower than it was ten years ago. Part of this lessened mortality may no doubt be assigned to better housing, improved scavenging, and more prompt recognition and treatment of the disease. But it must be borne in mind that a great change has occurred in the type of disease now occurring, as compared with the much more severe type occurring 30 or 40 years ago. The medical officer for the Local Government Board points out in his extremely interesting and informing report for 1910-1911, that this diminished severity in the type of Scarlet Fever makes the prevention of this disease more difficult, as frequently no medical aid is deemed necessary. Thus the disease in a given patient may go without either recognition or treatment. It is well known that occasionally Scarlet Fever has hitherto, at uncertain intervals, occurred in extensive epidemics, covering wide areas, and that these periods of undue prevalence follow a series of years, when the rainfall has been under the average.

Dr. Newsholme, in the report already alluded to, points out that the diminished epidemicity of Typhoid and Typhus afford an excellent index to the efficacy of an improved sanitation.

Smallpox is less under control (apart from the protection afforded by efficient vaccination, and after the lapse of some time, revaccination). It is probably the most infectious of all the infectious diseases, and, apart from vaccination, its eradication in epidemic areas is a matter of extreme difficulty. I have never known, however, of a recently vaccinated nurse in a smallpox hospital contracting this disease, and the principle of vaccination is now successfully applied to an increasing number of diseases, such as plague, cerebro-spinal meningitis, diphtheria, various septic diseases, anthrax in sheep, and a number of others, the root principle of all of these being the introduction from without, or the elaboration within the system of the patient, of protective "antibodies."

*Enteric Fever.* Only 4 cases of Enteric Fever have been notified, 2 of which proved fatal. Although this district has not now, and has not for many years had much Enteric Fever within its borders, nevertheless, the dangerous and uncertain course of this disease makes it imperative that every effort should be made to eradicate it. Furthermore, there is no disease in the prevention of which sanitary improvements can do more.

The water supplies of the Hexham Rural District are for the most part very good and pure, and are a most important factor in ensuring immunity from enteric.

Another almost equally important measure is the prevention of accumulations of filth, ashpit refuse, etc., in the vicinity of dwelling houses. Such accumulations encourage the breeding of flies, which contaminate and infect food. They also pollute the air, and in cases where the ashpits containing filth are uncemented, open, and below the ground level, constitute, in my opinion, stinking nuisances.

This disease is gradually being stamped out in this country, and the death-rate per 100,000 of the population has in the ten years 1901–1910 declined 68 per cent. Since 1869, when its statistics were first separately tabulated, it has shown an almost uninterrupted decline. In the year 1910, it was the registered cause of 1848 deaths in England and Wales. If the death-rate had remained the same as in the previous ten years, instead of 1848 deaths it would have caused 11,800. The saving of nearly 10,000 lives in a single year implies about 70,000 fewer cases of a protracted and disabling illness, with all its accompanying financial stress on poor families, lessened earning capacity of the patient for months after, and in not a few cases the loss of the breadwinner.

Next in importance to the provision of a safe water supply, comes the provision of main sewerage, which, when combined with an ample public water supply, permits of the substitution of water closets for privies or pail closets. As Dr. Kaye has put it, “the type of closet in use in a district, may be taken to indicate roughly the stage reached in sanitary civilisation.”

Finally, an important factor in limiting the spread of Enteric Fever, has been the hospital isolation of these cases.

*Puerperal Sepsis (blood poisoning) and Accidents of Childbirth.* — No notification of Puerperal Fever has been received during the past twelve months, but three deaths have been registered as due to “Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition.” One of these was due to Eclampsia, or a very fatal disease characterised by convulsions, generally coming on during labour. Another was due to Placenta Previa, where, if skilled assistance is not immediately obtainable, a fatal result is likely to occur from hemorrhage. The third was registered as being due to Lobar Pneumonia, following childbirth.

Thus the births of 439 children resulted in the loss of three mothers, or one mother for every 146 births. This ratio is higher than that for England and Wales as a whole, where, in 1909, one mother died in every 270 births.

*Measles*, like Whooping Cough, prevails chiefly, and is a serious cause of death, only in childhood. Up to the present, in neither of them can we be said to have a satisfactory means of controlling them. Their occurrence depends, as far as we know, upon a sufficient accumulation of susceptible children under conditions allowing the introduction of infection and free personal communication. Whilst the action of sanitary authorities has yielded much good fruit in regard to Typhoid, Smallpox, and Diphtheria, in regard to Measles and Whooping Cough but little improvement has taken place. As to the action to be taken in order to control epidemics of Measles, it seems to be established :

(1)—That it is desirable that the first case occurring in each household should be made notifiable.

(2)—The notification of Measles renders a sudden increase of staff necessary, to cope with the large number of cases needing to be visited in a very short time.

(3)—That the active co-operation of all concerned, especially of parents, is necessary both to prevent the spread of the disease, and to obviate the risk of a fatal ending to these cases. Hence the need for systematic visitation, and judicious advice as to the isolation and treatment of such cases.

(4)—That in the poorer homes, where children cannot receive adequate attention, and a proper and suitable diet, they have a far better chance of making a good recovery if removed to hospital.

Two deaths in your district have during the past year been registered as due to Measles, and three schools have required closure for this cause, viz :—Wall National School, Shaftoe Trust Council School, Haydon Bridge, and Humshaugh School.

*Pulmonary Tuberculosis* is now recognised as a communicable disease, although measures under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889, are hardly applicable to it. In 1908, the Local Government Board issued regulations limited to cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurring amongst inmates of Poor Law Institutions, or amongst persons under the care of the District Medical Officers. Later in the same year, the L.G.B. issued further regulations limited to cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurring amongst inmates of hospitals and similar institutions for the treatment of the sick, supported wholly or partly otherwise than by the contribution of the patient. Many local authorities have organised preventive measures against Pulmonary Tuberculosis. In some towns, compulsory notification, established under local acts, is already in force, and the L.G.B. are of opinion that compulsory notification is an indispensable preliminary to its effective administrative control. The L.G.B. have therefore issued new regulations, dated Nov., 1911,

requiring notification of this disease, in order to enable the local authorities to assist in its eradication. The death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, though far higher than that from any other notifiable disease, has in the past 30 years shown a marked decline. In 1881, the death-rate per 10,000 of the population was 18·25; in 1891, it was 15·99; in 1901, it was 12·64; and in 1909, it was 10·93.

In certain cases, it is no doubt desirable that the local authority should be able to offer sanatorium treatment, and for this purpose local authorities are empowered by the Public Health Act, 1875, to either themselves provide sanatoria, or they may contract for the use of such institutions. They are also, it appears, empowered to provide or contract for the use of dispensaries or out-patient hospitals. Treatment in an institution is, however, not always necessary or desirable, and many cases may, under suitable instruction and supervision, be treated in the patient's own house. Accordingly, the L.G.B. have empowered local authorities, on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health, to supply such medical assistance, facilities, and articles, as may be required for detecting Pulmonary Tuberculosis, for preventing the spread of infection, and for removing conditions favourable to infection.

The L.G.B. urge local authorities to use to the full their powers to prevent overcrowding, and to secure the removal of any conditions tending to injure the health of persons residing in their district.

**Finance.**—Under the Finance and National Insurance Bills, it is proposed to set aside a capital sum of 1½ millions for the provision of sanatoria and other institutions. Also, provision is made therein for defraying the expenses of the sanatorium treatment of insured persons, and also under certain circumstances to treat the dependents of insured persons.

The L.G.B. strongly urge the extreme importance of educating sufferers from this disease sufficiently—(1) to prevent their infecting others, and likewise (2) to enable them to create around themselves an environment as satisfactory as possible. The L.G.B. strongly urge that education in these matters must occupy an important place in the campaign against this disease. The L.G.B. urge upon local authorities and their officers to regard all notifications as strictly confidential documents, and that any procedure likely to cause the patient or his friends pain or annoyance should be studiously avoided, and further, that the M.O.H. must regard his register of cases as confidential, and open to inspection only by certain duly authorised officials, who are also required not to divulge the information thereby obtained. The new order supplements and extends existing orders,



Article I. defines the terms, "Council," "Area," "Medical Practitioner," "Medical Officer of Health," "School Medical Officer," "Poor Law Regulations," "Hospital Regulations," "Poor Law Institution," "Poor Law Hospital," and "Place of Residence."

Article II. states that these regulations shall come into force on the 1st January, 1912.

Article III. lays on councils the duty of providing forms, as appended to these regulations in schedules A. and B.

Article III. (2) states that printed forms shall be supplied to every medical practitioner in the council's area, and the form set forth in schedule B. shall be sent to medical inspectors of every public elementary school situated in the council's area.

Article IV. lays on medical practitioners the duty of notifying cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (in the form set forth in schedule A), to the Medical Officer of Health within 48 hours, unless such case has already been notified to the M.O.H. under the poor law regulations, or under the hospital regulations for the area in which the patient's place of residence is situated.

Article V. deals with the method of transmitting these notifications to the M.O.H.

Articles VII. and VIII. deals with the duties of the M.O.H. in the matter, which will frequently involve a visit to the patients' place of residence, with the co-operation of the medical practitioner in attendance if possible, and also the keeping of proper records and registers of the work done, and action taken, in these cases.

Article IX. empowers councils to supply all such medical and other assistance, and all such facilities and articles as may be required, to detect the disease, and prevent the spread of infection, and to remove conditions favourable to infection, and on the advice of the M.O.H. to provide and distribute in the form of placards, handbills, or leaflets, information and instruction regarding Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

Articles XI. and XII. also limit their scope.

Articles XIII. prevents councils or their officials putting unnecessary and irritating restrictions on patients suffering from the disease.

Article XIV. deals with the relationship existing between this order and any local acts which may be in force in any district.

Article XV. deals with the title of this order, whilst appended to the order are two schedules setting forth the form in which the necessary notifications shall be made.

The L.G.B. circular on this matter was duly brought before the Sanitary Committee by your Medical Officer, and was afterwards brought before the Council, who however made no recommendation thereon. I hope that this matter may yet receive the serious consideration of the board. A halfpenny rate would enable the Council to have the uninterrupted use of three beds at Barrasford Sanatorium, in which from six to twelve patients could be treated annually (according to the length of their stay in the sanatorium). The Council would thus put themselves in a line with other progressive Councils, and have the satisfaction of knowing that they were taking a full share in the splendid progress which is being made in stamping out this disease. The progress made in this direction is plainly indicated in the returns of the registrar-general, which show that in the decade 1871—80, for every 100,000 of the population living, 219 deaths took place from Phthisis. In the next ten years, this number had been reduced to 178. In the ten following, it was further reduced to 139. Whilst from 1901—10, the number again declined, and stood at 117.

Nevertheless, in 1909, in England and Wales, no less than 36,639 deaths were due to Pulmonary Phthisis. If the rate had been as high during 1909 as it was during 1871—80, the number of deaths from this cause would have been 78,308. Thus 39,669 lives were saved in the one year—1909—which would have been lost had the average conditions of the decennium 1871—80 persisted.

The Medical Officer of the L.G.B., from whose report the above facts are taken, attributes this declining mortality from tubercular diseases to—1st, the provision of better housing, and especially better sleeping accommodation. 2nd, the greatly improved habits of the people, especially in two respects, viz :—There is far less spitting in the dwelling-houses of the working classes than there was forty years ago; and, secondly, the general cleanliness of workers' houses now reaches a much higher level than it did then. It is now the exception in the majority of districts to find a house infested with bugs. Forty years ago, they abounded in a large proportion of the houses of the poor, and were not unknown in the hotels and houses of the well-to-do.

Finally, there is now a much more complete separation than ever before between the sick and the healthy. In London, for instance, in the year 1910, over 56 per cent. of the total male deaths from Phthisis occurred in public institutions.

It is agreed on all hands that a most important measure to prevent the spread of the disease consists in helping, in a liberal and adequate manner, the relatives of the patient, who are frequently overworked and underfed during the time the patient is lying ill. They are thus exposed to infection at the very time

that their powers of resistance are lowered, and are liable in a higher degree than usual to contract the infection. So much is this the case, that if the other inmates of the house in which a tubercular patient is lying be thoroughly examined, it is a very common experience to find, unrecognised, many cases amongst them. Lastly, but most important of all, the patient must himself be thoroughly instructed in the proper and safe disposal of the material he spits up, laden as it is with tubercle bacilli in a condition of extreme virulence.

The death-rate from Phthisis and other tubercular diseases is showing a tendency to decline, but it still exacts a heavy toll in this area. During the last five years, Phthisis and other tubercular diseases have been the registered cause of 216 deaths.

*Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Supply generally.*—There are 119 of the above on the register, being an increase of 2 over the numbers of last year. In one of these at Acomb, in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Ridley, the byre was without any means of admitting light. In response to an informal notice from your officials a window was put in. The sanitary inspector informs me that during the past year there have been, in several cases, improvements to byres in the way of lighting, drainage, and relaying of byre floors, and providing proper water supplies. A special report on byres and milk supply in the Hexham Rural District is now in preparation, and will shortly be laid before you.

Only a moderate amount of care is exercised in the milking of cows. In most cases, I believe (in the larger dairies at any rate) the milkers wash their hands before beginning, and in some the teats of the cow are also washed. But the cows themselves have often large quantities of dung sticking about their hind quarters, which cannot fail to lead to some contamination of the milk. In fact, I had my attention called recently to some milk which, after being supplied to an institution in the neighbourhood, was put overnight into a conical glass vessel made for the purpose of collecting the sediment from urine, milk, or any other liquid. I was really surprised in the morning to see what an amount of filth there was in the milk. I have reason to think that this sample was probably worse than the average, but that such a condition is possible is by no means an appetizing reflection.

Sutton, of Nottingham, in a paper on cowsheds, makes the following recommendations:—*Situation.*—The door and window side should, if possible, face south, so as to get the maximum amount of light behind the cattle, and to protect them from north and east winds.

*Width.* This should be 15 feet or more if a feeding passage is required. Lighting should be by windows in the side, and end



walls, and roofing. Glazed windows of not less than 4 feet square, one-third of which should open inwards, should be fixed in the wall at the rear of the stalls, one window to every four cows. This window, unlike the common hit and miss, when closed admits light. The top sash opens inward, and is hinged on the transom bar provided at the side, and the opening can be regulated. The incoming air is projected inwards, instead of being admitted directly on to the cattle. This is an important consideration, as recently calved cows are susceptible to cold, and this necessitates such openings as the hit and miss being closed. Glass lights in the roof, with, if necessary, windows in the gables, are the best method of lighting. Sutton recommends ridge ventilation as being the best, and not liable to produce draughts. The side hopper windows project the current of incoming air in an upward direction, and this displaces the foul warm air which is forced through the ridge openings. A feeding passage should be provided, wherever possible. It is more convenient, allows an open breathing space in front of each cow, and is therefore more healthy.

*Mangers.*—Nothing beats an 18-inch invert pipe, and those with sockets attached are to be preferred, as this permits of the mangers being laid in one complete line down the shed. The divisions between the mangers are with  $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch brickwork, and the partitions can be cut down into the mangers, if desired. It is advisable to fill the space behind and in front of the manger with concrete, to prevent rats from undermining it. The bottom of the manger should not be lower than the stall floor, and about two courses of  $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch common brick, with a hard wood capping, should be fixed in the manger, and the capping continued over the division walls. It is important that the height of this wall, including the capping, should not be more than 10 inches from the wall, or it will force the cattle back to the channel when lying down. The wall at the back of the manger should consist of 9-inch common brick, also provided with a wood capping, and the height need not exceed 2 feet, the idea being to have an uninterrupted breathing space for the cattle. Above this, one or more galvanized iron pipes can be run through the partition posts, to prevent the cattle from getting too far forward.

*Partitions.*—The main posts, preferably of oak, about 6-inch by 5-inch, should be fixed well below ground, with cross rails 4-inch by 3-inch mortised into them. Planed inch boards are fixed vertically to each side of the cross rails. The length from manger front should not exceed 4 feet. It is important not to have these partitions too long, otherwise the space for milking is limited.

*Floors* should consist of blue pavers laid in cement. If soft brick or stone paving is used it is always out of repair, and lends itself more readily to the absorption of liquids.

*Stalls.*—These should be not more than 5 feet 9 inches from manger front to channel, with a width of 7 feet between partition boards, for two cows. This length prevents the cattle from lying in their dung. The floors of the stalls have a slight fall to the channel, so that the water used in washing down, drains freely away.

*Curbs.*—The first and most important part of the floor to be laid is the curbs each side the channel, which should consist of blue bricks on edge, set in cement. The heel curb may be laid level from end to end of the shed. The height of the curb above the channel should be four inches if possible, but this height will vary according to the fall of the channels. This drop will prevent the cattle from lying in their dung.

*Channels.*—These should be 2 feet wide, including a  $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch invert channel for carrying away the urine. They have a slight fall to the rear, sufficient to carry off the urine, and also slope towards the exit channels, one of which should be provided for every 20 feet, and should deliver on to a gully trap outside. If these exit channels are not provided, especially in a fairly large shed, the depth of the channel is considerably reduced owing to the fall required. The exit channels, which are intended to convey the liquid to the outside drains, can be reduced in width to about 9 inches, and only need be very shallow.

*Rear walk.*—This should be not less than 4 feet from wall to channel, otherwise the walls will soon become fouled with dung, and the floor should have a slight fall, and a drop of two inches to the channel.

*Walls.*—These should be composed of some impervious material to a height of 4 feet 6 inches, because this portion requires constant cleansing. Perhaps cement is as good a material to use as any, it being both cheap and impervious.

*Drains.*—These should be laid under the pavements to afford protection from heavy vehicles, and should lead to a properly constructed cesspool, situated in an adjoining field.

*Storage of manure.*—It is a common practice to pile up manure and allow it to accumulate just outside the cowshed door, and to allow it to accumulate throughout a whole season. Sutton suggests that a much better method is to have a spare cart placed conveniently near the shed, into which manure is thrown, which, when full, can be removed and emptied; or else to have a manure pit built of ordinary brick, the walls of which need not be more than 4 feet 6 inches high, with a concrete floor, sloping to one end, so that liquid can be drained on to a gully trap fixed outside the pit. A convenient form is square, with an opening to one side wide enough to allow a cart for loading, and with a drain to the above-mentioned cesspool, to convey liquids away.

I have gone into the above matter with some details, as there is no doubt but that in the near future the preparation and storage of milk for food will demand a higher standard of care, and attention, than it gets (in many cases) at present.

*Slaughter Houses.*—There are at present 29 of these in the district, some of which do not comply with the spirit of the model byelaws of the L.G.B. I would strongly recommend the Council to adopt these byelaws as regards Slaughter Houses. The adoption of such a set of byelaws greatly simplifies the procedure for the abatement of nuisances.

At Corbridge, there is a dwelling house over the butcher's shop of the Prudhoe and West Wylam Co-operative Stores. It is a most undesirable place to live in. It would be difficult to find its equal for the number of flies with which it is infested.

On the premises lately occupied by Mr. Cousin, at Corbridge, a manure pit has been put in.

*Sewerage.*—Plans have been prepared for an extension of the Broomley scheme, which will in due course be submitted to the L.G.B. for approval and loan.

At Allendale, the main sewer has been extended from Forstersteads Road to Kitterlands Building Estate. The necessary manholes, lamp ventilating shafts, etc., have been put in.

At Wall, Mr. Murphy, M.I.C.E. has been engaged by the Parochial Committee, and has prepared plans for a complete system of sewerage disposal for this village, and the work will be done as soon as possible.

Branch End and Tyne View.—The main sewer here, when examined, was found in a very defective condition. The joints were badly made, and were leaking into the subsoil. The pipes were broken in places, and, having a very poor gradient, they had got silted up with all kinds of refuse. It was, therefore, taken up and thoroughly relaid, and all the house drain connections have been made up to this sewer. This will be a great improvement to the neighbourhood.

At Fishery Cottage, Ovingham, Ovingham Brewery, and Newbiggin Hall.—At these places the sewerage formerly discharged direct into the river or its tributaries. During the past year, however, works have in each case been installed to provide for its purification.

At Newbrough Park, also, the drains have been tested and found defective. They have hitherto discharged their crude sewage direct into a stream which is a tributary of the Tyne. It is now proposed to remodel the entire drainage system, and to connect the drains from these premises up to the sewer.

*Paving of Yards to Dwelling Houses.*—An increasing amount of attention is being given by Sanitary Authorities all over the Kingdom to this matter. It has been abundantly shown, that

measures taken to make street and yard surfaces in the immediate neighbourhood of dwelling houses impervious, and not liable to absorb filth, exercise a most important and beneficial effect upon the health of the community in general. Polluted yard surfaces involve pollution of the ground air, which, under the influence of the higher temperature, is drawn into the heated dwelling rooms of houses. In the absence of bye-laws dealing with the paving of yards, a general practice has been in the past to leave the ground surface at the back of the house just as the builder found it, for he laid down no paving whatever. Occasionally a sprinkling of gravel was laid upon a patch which was intended to form a pathway. Tenants finding that slops and waste water could be disposed of by casting them on the surface, found this to be a ready method, whilst more solid refuse was also similarly deposited on the surface. The consequence has been, and is at present, that at a large number of workmen's house the surfaces of the back yards, which, it must be remembered, are the children's playgrounds, are polluted with organic matter, and the soil becomes a breeding ground for micro-organisms. To counteract these conditions, the Local Government Board have, during the past few years, encouraged the adoption of bye-laws, which are applicable to both new and existing houses, under which the paving of back yards can be enforced. These bye-laws can only be obtained, however, after the Local Authority has adopted Part III. of the P.H.A.A.A., 1890, or, if the whole of Part III. is not being adopted, then the provision of Section 23 alone, which gives the enabling power to make such bye-laws, may be adopted. In rural districts a council may adopt this part of the Act, and can make bye-laws to the extent empowered by Section 50 of the Act, for the paving of yards for both new and old houses. Both Urban and Rural Authorities, however, we should point out, may also secure the paving of yards under the provisions of Section 25 of the P.H.A.A.A., of 1907, but to obtain the powers, application must first be made to the Local Government Board for an order declaring the provisions to be in force in the Urban District, and in Rural Districts in such contributory places as the Local Government Board approves.

**School Closures.** The following schools have during the past year been closed for infectious disease :—

<i>School.</i>	<i>Closed.</i>	<i>Cause.</i>
Wall National School, from 9th to 30th Jan.	...	Measles.
Sandhoe, Beaufront Council	31st Jan. to 20th Feb.	Whooping Cough.
Warden, Hardhaugh Parochial	24th Feb. to 20th March	Whooping Cough.
Newbrough Council	10th March to 3rd April	Whooping Cough.
Shaftoe Trust Council	30th June to 21st July	Measles.
Ordley Council School	14th Aug. to 21st Aug.	Sore Throats.
Hunsbaugh School	9th to 23rd October	Measles.
Shotley Low Quarter, St. John's C.E.	4th to 25th Dec.	Scarlet Fever.

*Isolation Hospital.* 7 cases from your district were treated in the hospital last year, 3 being cases of Diphtheria, 3 Scarlet Fever, and 1 Enteric Fever, all of whom recovered.

*Housing and Town Planning Acts.* About five hundred houses have during the past year been inspected under the provisions of this act by your officials, and numerous nuisances remedied as a result thereof. It will be necessary for us later to ask the Council for the use of a horse and trap, in order to continue this work in some of the more outlying portions of the district.

A detailed inspection of the village of Acomb\* shows that in this village much is required in the way of improvement, partly in the property of private owners, and partly in matters for which the Council are responsible.

At several houses, the property of Mr. Mewburn, it was necessary to serve notices for various defects, such as defective spouting, defective condition of roofs and walls of outoffices, and defective ashpits. In each case the matters complained of were rectified.

At the house occupied by Mr. James Nichol, the property of Mr. George Charlton, there is a privy halfway down the garden, with delapidated roof and walls, floor too low, uncemented and sloping back from door towards privy seat; large uncovered delapidated ashpit at the end of the coalhouse with uncemented floor and sides. A cobbler's shop adjoins house at back, and has old and quite rotten spouts.

At the back of the house occupied by Miss Mary Ann Steele, there is a filthy old open ashpit in the yard. The spouting at the back wants cleaning. The ashpit for several tenants is against Miss Steele's house, causing dampness. It requires to be removed, and reconstructed in accordance with the bye-laws, in a different position.

At the back of the house occupied by P.C. Jackson—owned by Mr. J. P. Walton—all the outhouses are inspouted. The yard surface needs to be paved and properly drained. The privy used by Messrs. Henderson and Steele is a very foul nuisance. The bottoms of the ashpit and privy, and sides of ashpit, require to be cemented and raised above the level of the surrounding ground.

At the Sun Inn, the property of Mr. Edward Hawkins, the ashpit is uncovered, and the bottom and sides uncemented, contrary to the bye-laws.

Some defective ashpits belonging to the property of Mrs. Clayton, Chesters, were rectified immediately attention was called to them, and a great improvement thereby effected.

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\* Several of these defects have been remedied since the above was written.



On the premises occupied by Mr. Joseph Brown, the property of Mr. John Charlton, the spouts are in a bad condition.

At the houses occupied by Mr. John Moore, and others, the property of Mrs. Bewick, Broomley Fell, and Mrs. Nixon, Fawcett Hills, the ashpit is very bad, and receives roof water, and there are only two closets for six tenants.

At the house occupied by Mr. Thomas Snowball, there is an old open uncemented ashpit, into which roof water from Ridley's premises drips. This requires to be remedied without delay, and it is a bad case.

At the house occupied by Mrs. Cook, the property of Mrs. Alice Hutchinson, the ashpit requires to be reconstructed in accordance with the byelaws.

At Orchard Terrace, the property of Mr. George Hutchinson, there is an open ashpit with uncemented floor and sides, and with floor below ground level, which also receives roof water. On my last visit, I found the roofs of the houses of this terrace unsound in almost every case, and in some cases water running down the bedroom walls. This I regard as a bad case, and one which will, before long, require the Council's attention.

At 11, Acomb Terrace, occupied by Mr. John Davidson - owner, Mr. Thomas Hutchinson - the spouting was exceedingly defective ; whilst at No. 10, the property of the same owner, the privy discharged (in spite of repeated warnings) into the burn. If this nuisance recurs, I would recommend the Council to take strong measures in regard to it. Too little notice has been in the past paid to the warnings of your officials.

At the house occupied by Mr. Wm. Bennett, and owned by Messrs. George and Thos. Hutchinson, no spouts were supplied to the back of the house. It was exceedingly damp. There was only one closet for three tenants, and the outhouse adjoining the back room has no window frame. This house is in a condition dangerous and injurious to the health of the inmates.

At the house occupied by Mr. Ralph Cowell, Acomb Forge, the property of Mr. George Hutchinson, the roof leaked at side of pantry, and there is only one ashpit for the use of some six or eight families. In the house belonging to the same owner, occupied by Mrs. Mary Margaret Brown, the roof lets in slightly, and the ceiling of the bedroom is coming down through excessive dampness.

In regard to matters for which the Council are responsible, during the hot weather of this last summer, there was a distinct nuisance at the point at which the sewerage enters the Poison Burn near the foot of the village. The want of sewers for the

lower portion of this village is the cause of the persistence of several nuisances. A scheme was prepared a few years ago for sewerage this part of Acomb, by Mr. Dimming, which has, however, not been carried out.

At Wylam, on the premises occupied by Mr. John Davidson, a privy has been abolished, and a good W.C. put in instead, this bringing about a most desirable improvement.

At Mrs. Bell's house, and also the house occupied by Mr. Thos. Bell, improvements have been done to the spouting, and in regard to the yard surface and the drainage of the same.

During the past year it has been necessary to take proceedings for the closure of three wooden huts, used as dwelling houses, situated at North Side, Wylam, near to the Locomotive Inn.

*Water Supplies.*—The system at Haydon Bridge has been extended upwards of 400 yards to supply Brigwood Estate. It has also been extended to the site of the Penning Well. This new water supply did not turn out altogether as well as was expected, and very numerous complaints reached your officials about the inconstancy and discolouration of the supply. The engineers were of opinion that the discolouration was due to the contamination of one or two of the smaller springs entering the reservoir, and that the shortage was the result of wilful waste. They recommended the installation of means whereby any given spring could be shut off from the reservoir at will. Since this was done, we are glad to say that the quality has very much improved, and the complaints as to shortage have ceased. It is to be hoped that the trouble and friction engendered by this scheme are now at end.

The domestic supply to the farm at Park Shield has been improved, a storage reservoir having been built, and the chances of pollution minimised, thus effecting a considerable improvement.

*Factories and Workshops Acts.*—There are 79 of these on the register, which have received periodical visits from your officials. Speaking generally, the workers in this district labour in surroundings which are conducive to health. 111 visits were paid during the past year. A few defects in cleanliness and ventilation were dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector.

*Food and Drugs Acts.*—In this county the administration of these Acts rest with the County Council, and the only information we have as to their administration we get from the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

*Inquests and Uncertified Deaths.* During the year, and over the whole district, there have been 20 deaths which have not been registered in the usual way. On 11 of these inquests were held, whilst on the remaining 9, inquests were not considered necessary by the coroner.

These deaths occurred—

- 5 in the Allendale sub-district ;
- 7 in the Bywell sub-district ;
- 5 in the Chollerton sub-district ;
- 3 in the Hexham sub-district.

The causes of death were as follows —

Heart failure, 5.	Natural causes, 1.
Hemorrhage, 3.	Bronchitis, 1.
Accidents, 4.	Struck by lightning, 1.
Suicide, 1.	Pneumonia, 1.
Convulsions, 2.	Consumption, 1.

GENTLEMEN,

As will be seen from the foregoing report, considerable progress has been made during the past year in various ways, but, judging from private information, I think the sewerage of Acomb will soon have to be done, and, further, that sooner or later, an organised system of scavenging will also have to be undertaken, and I have no doubt that the Council will eventually take this matter in hand, just as they have discharged other duties laid upon them by the central authorities.

I have to thank the Clerk, Mr. J. H. Nicholson, for his help and advice on many occasions. I have also to thank Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Waugh, along with the Chairman and Members of the Council, for much valuable aid and information.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. C. PENFOLD.